(Wed. 1904)

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Dec. 7th

Beloved William.

I'm sure you can't have been eating enough. I heard from Madge & she said that you had eaten very little there - as they only had a temporary cook. You see the pain in your back comes simply from your nerves not having enough nourishment. & you must make yourself eat. Violet said that the first day at luncheon you had nothing but fish.

I mean no meat. Hey
monkey - do be sensible.
It does worry me so dread-
fully to think that you
don't look after yourself.
& I do think that though
you are sensible in theory
about yourself you don't
apply it in practice. You
have such a horror of
making a fuss about
yourself. But really it's
much wiser to recognise
the fact that you aren't
strong in some ways & to
look out for them. & I
should feel a great respect
for you if you did. How I
want to see you & hear
you write. But tell
me how you are when
you write.

I went to see Violet this
afternoon & found her simply
full of your praises. Of
course her taste may be
peculiar. But she thinks
your writing most wonderful.
She said she had sat & howled
over the life of Caroline Smedley
you must send it to me
to read. She thought you
would undoubtedly be a
great writer one day -
your things are so well
thought out. Fresh &
original & interesting.
You always have something
to say on any subject
& your writing is so living.

Is that enough for you?
She really thinks you a
genius. Isn't it strange?
Madge says you came as
a boon & a blessing to them
(like the pen) into your
delightful mind - so finely
trained & your curious
penetrating personality - to
say nothing of your affectionate
Really! William I shall
borrow your green eye
in my old age. I haven't
dared to show my works
to Tonks yet. but I think
I must on Friday.
When are you coming
back? on Saturday?
or do you want me
to come for Sunday?

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

could. only I rather want
to go to the R. A. prize.
Day on Saturday. I'm
afraid I can't get you
a ticket for it as I'm
not a student now.
But tell me what you
want me to do as I
needn't go there.
Our dinner last night
was very dull. I sat
between Jack Pollock
& Reggie Balfour who
married a Cornish. There
were Jo & Jane Cradley
Freshfields. Sir H. Cunningham

was there whom I have
an affection for. He is
coming to see us here.
He is really amusing.
NYPL
How do you get on with
Headlam? I like him
but I think one can
have the artistic tem-
perament without being
that part of it is
unnecessary & I think
rather degrading don't
you? Not that I'm
afraid of my pure-
minded William Henry.

but I don't much
like it in him.
How I must look.

? 8 Dec 1904

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Thursday.

Beloved William. I was so thankful for your letter this morning (I only hope your account of yourself is true. 11.30 to 7 is certainly better though not perfect. You might quite well go on to 8 without being a dormouse. Tonight is the Hunts dance. Tom is coming to dine so I have no time to write. I have just been to tea with Kelly

She has a very nice house & asked a great deal after you. She was dreadfully deaf. I could hardly make her hear at all & I had to shout.

Ethel Clifford is engaged to Fisher Dilke. I ought to congratulate her & tell her to give up writing poetry. I wish you could review her. Gerald wrote to tell me & says his material making is better than mine – so I suppose

he has had her confidences.

Poor Shaw was killed instantaneously. I only told you the bare facts as I knew no more. But now we have heard that he was killed at once - which is a good thing. I do like his life. So glad Pears up wonderfully.

Take care of yourself my monkey -

Yours

Mary.

LONDON
APL 1
2 A
1905

Miss Virginia Stephen

Poste Restante

Lisbon

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.
March 31st

Beloved Monkey & Wombat

I wonder if this letter will ever reach you & where. I feel as if you had got completely beyond my knowledge & I can't imagine you on a ship. I had your card from Liverpool - in which you did not say if you had had my telegram about your sponges, etc. So I'm afraid you didn't get it. When I came back from seeing you off Maud met me with a face of horror & said Oh Miss Vessa something dreadful has happened! Thank Goodness she stopped & I thought Sophy had been murdered at least - It

was quite a relief when she said you had left all your toilet apparatus behind - but poor Wombat's coiffure makes me tremble whenever I think of it - I could not get them to you in any way - so I could only telegraph Etch you to buy new ones. I wont send them now as you will certainly have got new ones before yours could reach you.

I am alone tonight as Aubrey is dining with Mc Carthy. We dined with Aunt Annie on Wed. where strange to say we met Adeline Ritchie, Olivia Fresh[illegible] & McCarthy - It was dull - Last night we had as successful an evening as could be expected without my William's wit. Billy, Maynor, Gerald, Hilton Young

Tennyson, Sidney Turner & Cable who I see will come regularly & Acland who lives with Mary & Hilton Young. They seemed to enjoy themselves. Hugh Gerald is rather out of his element.

Susan came to lunch today on her way to Gustow. I think we are going to Dieppe, Honfleur, Caen, Bayeux & Rouen, possibly Paris. But Cook's dont have circular tours that would do for us at this time of year so we shall probably take tickets when we get there & be rather vague. Anyhow write here.

Gordon Square drives must seem dull to you in your tropics. I do wish I could see what you are up to & above all how you are & whether you are sensible & eat sleep & rest. Dont walk too much. You know its found to be very tiring so do make a point

resting. I hope Adrian will be sensible - but he is not used to the responsibility of a monkey & a wombat in one. I am lazy & flourishing. Tomorrow I dine with George & Margaret - Your Sichel was not in the Times - but your review of the Fortnightly novel was. Aunt Anny was raving about your Thackeray lecture - She says the street music was charming but young - Mr Thackeray was by a mature writer! You will be sorry to hear that my M.S. has just been returned by Lee. Madge has sent you a jewel. I opened the box thinking it was probably flowers & felt quite ill. Tell her you are away. You have also had a letter & thanks from Miss Power which I opened nothing else - Tell Adrian I have sent his papers to Jack - Now good night my animals. Above all be careful & mind your health or you shall never have me again

Your mania -

LONDON W.C.
APL 5
2 AM
1905
ONE PENNY
Miss Virginia Stephen
15
Poste Restante
30
Seville
Spain.

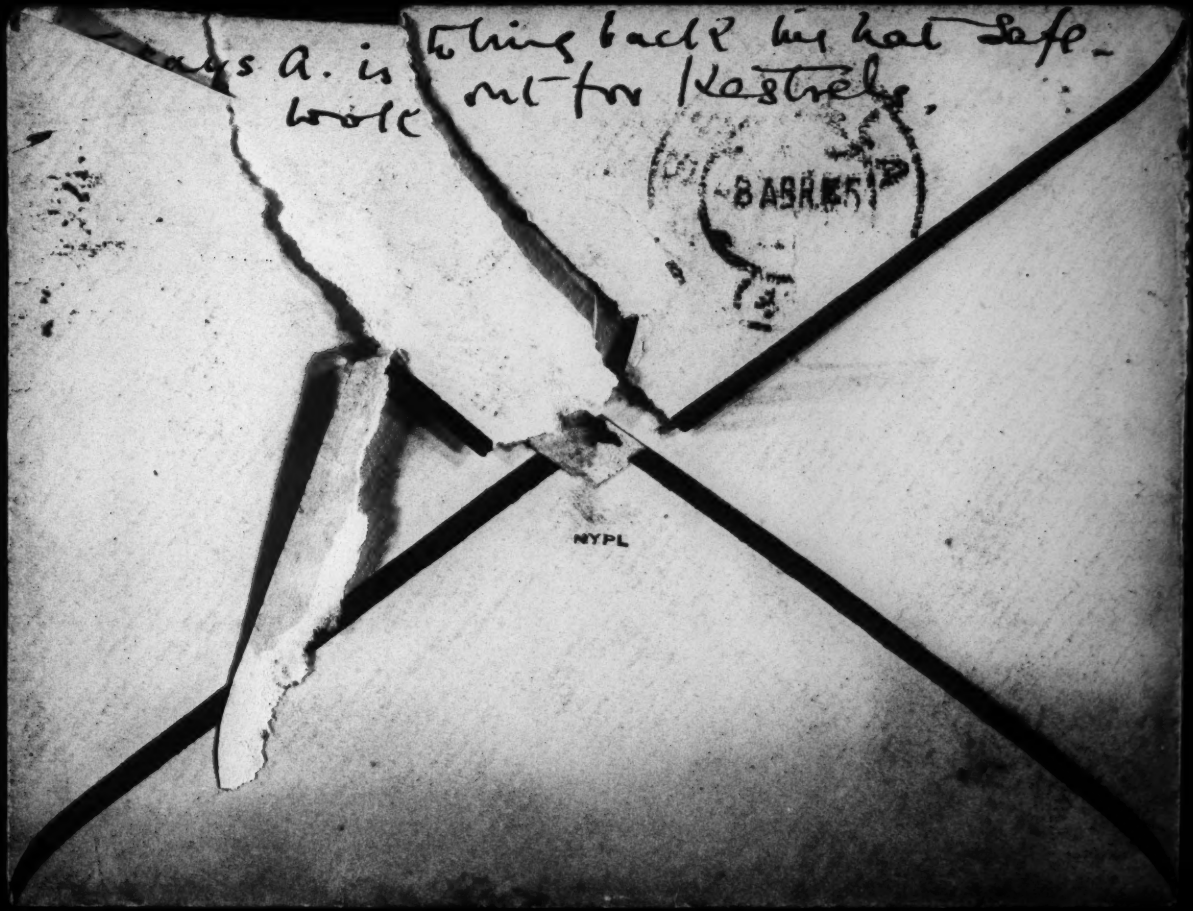
you wrote me a most poetic
account of the Cornish cliffs
which reminds me that Kelly
said casually the last time
I saw her that you
ought to be painted but that there
was no one alive nowadays
with poetry enough to do it! Imagine
Beloved Wombat (& William)
I was enormously excited
by your letter - & even a land rat
like myself as you impertinently
call me - can appreciate the
romance of the sea - Did not
you long to be Whistler? You
will be rather cross at my
not having gone yet. But it's
Mrs Snowdon's fault. We go
tomorrow & even so shall have
more than a fortnight away
so you ought to be satisfied!
I haven't yet quite settled
whether we cross to Dieppe
or Havre - but I think Dieppe.
Anyhow I hope to have letters
forwarded from you.
I can well understand that
many of your passengers
must have succumbed & you

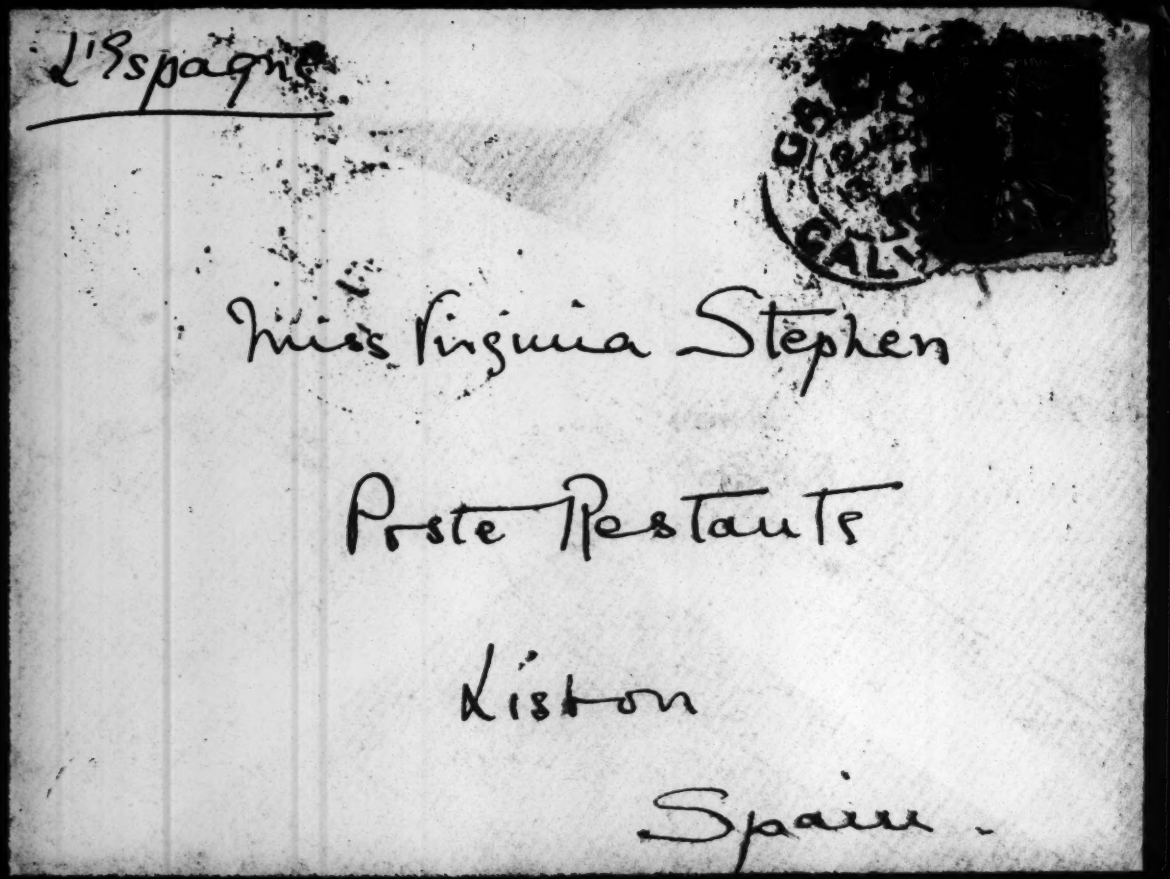
46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

& Adrian are evidently as
good as you thought you would
be - anything more horrible
than a perpetual gentle roll -
however I wont think of it as
I shall be in it myself tomorrow
I am beginning to get excited
at the prospect of foreign lands
again. It will really be great
fun - Since I wrote to you
I have been to Sargent's studio
Elena, Mr Rathbone, Miss Liling
& I went the great man was
most affable & remembered me
& said he knew me well from
the academy - so I was satis-
fied as I had been afraid I
should have to thrust myself
on to his memory - I want to
get to know him well enough
to ask him for criticism - his
pictures are quite wonderful -
but as you will see them all at the
Academy (if you return alive) I
wont describe them. Elena asked
a great deal after you - as does
everyone - & they all seem to
think that you two are the
most casual & erratic travellers
Gerald has quite made up
his mind that you will live
the best somewhere -

My poor Wombat - how are
you really? You do seem to
be in another hemisphere
altogether. & I only hope you
look after yourself. Don't
lay up seeds of future disease
& do be a hedonist as you say
you are - I am going to be
in my travels. I shall think
of nothing but my own pleasure
Snow comes here tonight for
the night - I find that my
finances are in a most flourish
state. In some wonderful way
I have a balance of £160!
I can't think why - but as
I am so rolling I shall invest
in objects of art without scruple

if I come across them. which will be great fun - also when you come back you must let me repay you Shaw's £10. I simply insist upon it. but that can wait. till you return I have also this moment had a letter from George sending me a cheque for £5-8/ I am more wilting than ever.
I wonder if you will get this letter & when - I shall send it to Seville on the chance - NYPL How is Wombat behaving without his mama? Is he lonely or is he a happy beast? I do wish I could see his funny face looking up at me over the bed clothes. When do you get to bed my animal - & do you really eat enough? I wish I knew truthfully how you are. This is a very dull letter but really Bloomsbury is dull when one thinks of Spain. Are you bull-fighting


bringing back his hat safe-
ly for Kastriel.
BASRA
NYPL


L'Espagne

Miss Virginia Stephen

Poste Restante

Lisbon

Spain.

done from Swiss - This is a mighty dull letter - just re arent-feeling at-all dull - & are having quarrels!

Hotel d'Angleterre
Caen.

~~46, Gordon Square,~~
~~Bloomsbury~~ April 13th.

Beloved William & Wombat:

To my joy I found a letter signed by William & Wombat's mark waiting here for me yesterday sent on from London. It was the first I had had since your letter from Havre & I was thankful for news. This must go to Niston - as I don't think I should be in time for the other places - I have written to Seville & Niston before. But its quite a chance whether you get any of my letters - I hope you won't go on imagining Thirty in bed with diphtheria, etc - for as far as I know he is fat & flourishing - as I am too. & Snow & I are enjoying life after our own peculiar fashion - You seem to be most energetic sight seers -

Hotel d'Angleterre
Caen.

~~46, Gordon Square,~~
~~Bloomsbury~~ April 13th.

Dearest Sunny-
This is a dull letter - just to let you at all dull - feeling & care & naught quarrelsome.

Beloved William & Wombat:

To my joy I found a letter signed by William & Wombat's mark waiting here for me yesterday sent on from London. It was the first I had had since your letter from Havre & I was thankful for news. This must go to Biston - as I don't think I should be in time for the other places - I have written to Seville & to Biston before. But it's quite a chance whether you get any of my letters - I hope you won't go on imagining Thisby in bed with diphtheria, etc - for as far as I know he is fat & flourishing - as I am too. & Snow & I are enjoying life after our own peculiar fashion - You seem to be most energetic sight seers &

We on the contrary have done no real sight seeing at all - I think today we shall go & see the two churches here. (in the evening we are going to a service where they seem to sing & have good music! in a beautiful old church. I don't believe we shall get to Rouen - as we are going on South to Granville & Mont St. Michel - We came here yesterday from Honfleur which was a charming little place with real Cornish fishing boats. We passed through country with quantities of apple blossom out against the sea - but I expect your Spanish coast will spoil you for tame scenery - Hey land.

NYPL

rat blood can [illegible] with nothing but horror of your passing off the coast – Have you never really felt ill at all? I am already thinking with dread of our journey back from Havre.

My poor Wombat – I wish I knew how your fur was really looking – you ought to be pining for a real petting by the time you get back – & perhaps – if you have been good – there's no saying but you may get it. I keep on thinking that your letter will probably be read by Spanish officials which restrains my otherwise demonstrative pen – also by the time you get this I suppose you will be within 3 days of seeing me again – Do you go back to Liverpool or stop

at Southampton? Let me know exactly when you do arrive. Golden Square is being well cleaned up & the Hyde Park Gate mantel piece is being put in - I wish that rat Adam had written to me. He might have given me a truthful account of your state - for I dont altogether trust your NYPL complete restoration description. However I have to make up my mind to be philosophical & hedonistical - Turk tells me the water works have burst in Madrid & the mob is rioting - I'm thankful you arent going there - I hope the rioting is not elsewhere too. Poor little monkey are ou easily trampled on & squashed - Do keep well my Wombat - What a lot we shall have to talk about - Your loving

T. PARSONS 3-2-73